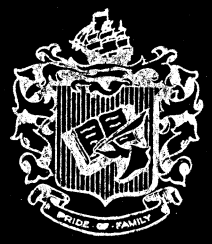
BREED FAMILY

Genealogical and Historical Sketch



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THE NAME AND FAMILY OF BREED

BREED is a surname of local origin. It was taken from the town of Brede, County Sussex, England, by one who was early resident in that place. The registers of this town date back to the year 1359. In the course of its long history the name has been variously spelled Brede, Bred, Braid, Breade, Breede, Breads, Breeds, Bread, and Breed, of which the last is the form most often found in America in modern times. Possibly the name of the town was derived from the Anglo-Saxon Brid, meaning "a bird", or from the German Breed, meaning "broad", but this cannot be definitely ascertained.

The Manor of Brede was distinct from the Hundred of Hastings until the thirty-third year of the reign of King Henry VIII, at which time it was incorporated into that district. A daughter of the family of Breade (Brede or Breede) of Sussex was married in the time of King Edward III (circa 1327-1377) to Nicholas Aucher, of Losenham, County Kent. These early records are not, however, complete.

One branch of the family evidently removed at an early date to Wiltshire, since the records of Southbroom, in that county, contain numerous references to a family of the name of Bread. These include mention of Katherine Bread, who married William Beauson in 1589; Edward Bread, who was married in 1591 to Joane, daughter of William Taylor; Elizabeth Bread, who married Robert Taylor or Taylor in 1592; Joane Bread, who was married in 1597 to William Nashe; and Thomas Bread, who married Joane Hatt in 1600 or 1601.

There is also record of an Elizabeth Breed who was living at London during the same period, and it is probable that she, too, was descended from the Sussex family.

Allen Bread or Breed, from whom most, if not all, of the families of the name in America are descended, was born in England about the year 1601, but record of his ancestry is not in evidence. He emigrated with Governor Winthrop to Massachusetts in 1630 and settled first at Salem, whence he soon removed to Lynn, in the same colony. He was married in England about the year 1626 to Elizabeth Knight, and his first two sons, Allen and Timothy, were born prior to his emigration to America. At Lynn he had two other sons, Joseph and John. The authorities granted the elder Allen two hundred acres of land at Lynn, which is called "Breed's End" to this day.

Allen Breed, second son of the immigrant Allen, had issue at Lynn, Mass., by his wife Mary of six children, Joseph, Allen, John, Mary, Elizabeth, and Samuel.

Joseph Breed, eldest son of the second Allen, was married in 1683 to Sarah Farrington. To this union were born eleven children, Mary, Jane, Sarah, Joseph, Ruth, Elizabeth, Matthew (died in infancy), another Matthew, Mercy, Mehitable, and Allen.

Of the last-mentioned brothers, sons of Joseph and Sarah (née Farrington), Joseph married Susannah Newhall in 1717 and had issue by her at Lynn of Theophilus, Ruth, Joseph (died young), Susanna, Lydia, Mary, and Ephraim; Matthew was married in 1723 to Mary Stocker, by whom he had issue of Mary, Sarah, Mehitable, Hannah, Matthew, and Ruth; and Allen was married in 1728 to Hulda Newhall, by whom he had issue of Joseph, Love, Jerusha, Hulda, Abigail, Allen, Hepzibah, Eliphalet, and Frederick, all of whom were born at Lynn.

Allen Breed, probably the second son of the second to bear that name in this country, was married at Lynn in 1684 to Elizabeth Ballard. He had at least one son, named John. The names of all of his progeny are not available, but it is possible that some of his descendants resided at

Charlestown, Mass. John, the only known son of the third Allen, married Lydia Gott, of Lynn, in 1717 and had, among other children, a son named Josiah Breed.

John Breed, third son of the second Allen, was a shoemaker by trade and removed about the year 1687 to Stonington, Conn. He was married in 1690 to Mercy Palmer, of that place, his former wife having died the year before, leaving no progeny. John and Mercy were the parents of ten children, Ann, Mercy or Mary, John, Eliza, Sarah, Zuriah or Zeruiah, Joseph, Bethiah, Allen, and Gershom.

Of the last-mentioned brothers, John was married at Stonington in 1728 to Mary Prentice, by whom he had issue of Mercy, John, Nathan (progenitor of the family in Pennsylvania and New York), Mary, Sarah, Esther, Grace, Emma, Hannah, Amos, and Lucy; while Gershom removed to Norwich, Conn., and was married in 1747 to Dorothy McLaren, of Middletown, Conn. To this union were born ten children, John McLaren, Susanna, Gershom (died in infancy), another Gershom, David, Allen, Shubael, Jesse, Simeon, and Anna.

Samuel Breed, the youngest son of the second Allen, married Anna Hood, of Lynn, and had ten children, whose names are not available in all cases. Of these children, however, two, Nathan and Ebenezer, are said to have had descendants in New Hampshire.

Of these two sons of Samuel and Anna (née Hood), Nathan married Mary Bassett, of Lynn, and had, among other children, Zephaniah and Mary Breed, of Weare; and Ebenezer had issue by his wife Rebecca of, among other children, a son named Ebenezer, who settled at Weare, N.H.

Timothy Breed or Breede (also recorded as Bread or Braid), second son of the immigrant Allen, was married in 1680 to Sarah Newhall and had issue by her of a son named Joseph. The records of this line, however, are not complete.

Joseph, probably the third son of the immigrant Allen, was the father in the year 1684 of a daughter named Mary, but it is believed that he had no male progeny.

John Breed, the youngest son of the immigrant Allen, was married at Lynn in 1663 to Sarah Hathorne or Hawthorne. To this union were born Sarah, William, Ephraim, and Ebenezer. In 1678 John took a second wife, Sarah Hart, but it is probable that he had no more children, since he died only a few months later.

Ephraim Breed, son of John and Sarah (née Hathorne), commanded the frigate Buckingham in 1710, when Reverend J. Barnard sailed to the West Indies. He settled at Charlestown, Mass., and was married about the beginning of the eighteenth century to Martha Gloss, of that place. His children were

Elizabeth, Martha, Ephraim, Rebecca (died in infancy), another Rebecca, Sarah, Mary, and Charles.

Of the last-mentioned brothers, sons of Ephraim and Martha, Ephraim was married in 1757 to Hannah Newell, by whom he had a son named Ephraim; and Charles married another Hannah Newell in 1748 and had issue by her of a son named Charles, who, however, died in infancy.

Ebenezer Breed, son of John and Sarah (née Hathorne), was also a sea-captain. He married Hannah Carey in 1712 and settled soon afterward at Charlestown, Mass. He had four sons, three named Ebenezer, who died young, and another, named John.

The last-mentioned John Breed was married in 1741 to Mary Foster, of Charlestown, and had issue by her of Ebenezer, John, Mary, Hannah, and Sarah.

Some family historians have stated that Allen Breed was the only member of the family to come to America. This is not correct, for record has been found of at least two others. These were William Breed, who settled in Virginia in 1650; and Thomas Bread, who sailed from England in 1679 in the Providence for Boston, Mass. Nothing is definitely known concerning the immediate families or descendants, if any, of these immigrants.

The record of the Breeds in America is that of a strong, determined, resourceful, and devout race. Many of the family have been active in religious life, while others have shown themselves capable business and professional men, known for their integrity and fair dealing.

Of the members of the family who served with the American forces in the Revolutionary War, record has been found concerning Aaron, Amos, Ephraim, Lieutenant Frederick, George, Joel, John, Joseph, Josiah, Micah or Micajah, Nathaniel, Samuel, Seth, and William Breed (sometimes recorded as Bread as well), of Massachusetts; Surgeon Nathaniel Breed, of New Hampshire; and Christopher, David, Gershom, Jabez, John, and Oliver Breed (sometimes Bread), of Connecticut.

William, David, John, Charles, Thomas, Joseph, Allen, Gershom, Ebenezer, Ephraim, Samuel, and Robert are among the Christian names preferred by the family for its male progeny.

Among those of the name who have been prominent in America in comparatively recent times are:

William Pratt Breed (1816-1889), of New York and Pennsylvania, clergyman and author.

David Riddle Breed (b. 1848), of Pennsylvania, clergyman and author.

John Howard Breed (b. 1849), of Pennsylvania, business man and genealogist.

William Constable Breed (b. 1871), of New York, lawyer.

Charles Blaney Breed (b. 1875), of Massachusetts, engineer.

Charles Henry Breed (b. 1876), of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, educator.

Robert Stanley Breed (b. 1877), of Pennsylvania and New York, educator and bacteriologist.

The coat of arms of the ancient Breade family of County Sussex, England, with which the American Breeds are believed to be of common origin, is described in heraldic terms as follows (Burke, General Armory, 1884):

Arms.--"Gules, a lion rampant double queued argent, a border vert semée of escallops or."

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WHY YOU HAVE A FAMILY NAME AND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

Primitive personal names doubtless originated soon after the invention of spoken language, although the date of their first use is lost in the darkness of ages preceding recorded history. For thousands of years thereafter, first or given names were the only designations that men and women bore; and in the dawn of historic times, when the world was less crowded than it is today and every man knew his neighbor, one title of address was sufficient. Only gradually, with the passing centuries and the increasing complexity of civilized society, did a need arise for more specific designations. While the roots of our system of family names may be traced back to early civilized times, actually the hereditary surname as we know it today dates from a time scarcely earlier than nine hundred years ago.

A surname is a name added to a baptismal or Christian name for the purposes of making it more specific and of indicating family relationship or descent. Classified according to origin, most surnames fall into four general categories: (1) those formed from the given name of the sire; (2) those arising from bodily or personal characteristics; (3) those derived from locality or place of residence; and (4) those derived from occupation. It is easier to understand the story of the development of our institution of surnames if these classifications are borne in mind.

As early as biblical times certain distinguishing appellations were occasionally employed in addition to the given name, as, for instance, Joshua the son of Nun, Simon the son of Jonas, Judas of Galilee, and Simon the Zealot. In ancient Greece daughters were named after their fathers, as Chryseis, the daughter of Chryses; and sons' names were usually an enlarged form of the father's, as Hieronymus, son of Hiero. The Romans, with the rise of their civiliza-

tion, met the need for hereditary designations by inventing a complex system whereby every patrician traced his descent by taking several names. None of them, however, exactly corresponded to surnames as we know them, for the "clan name", although hereditary, was given also to slaves and other dependents. This system proved to be but a temporary innovation; the overthrow of the Western Empire by barbarian invaders brought about its end and a reversion to the primitive custom of a single name.

The ancient Scandinavians and for the most part the Germans had only individual names, and there were no family names, strictly speaking, among the Celts. But as family and tribal groups grew in size, individual names became inadequate and the need for supplementary appellations began to be felt. Among the first employed were such terms as "the Strong", "the Hardy", "the Stern", "the Dreadful-in-battle"; and the nations of northern Europe soon adopted the practice of adding the father's name to the son's, as Oscar son of Carnuth and Dermid son of Duthno.

True surnames, in the sense of hereditary designations, date in England from about the year 1000. Largely they were introduced from Normandy, although there are records of Saxon surnames prior to the Norman Conquest. Perhaps the oldest known surname in England is that of Hwita Hatte, a keeper of bees, whose daughter was Tate Hatte. During the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) there were Saxon tenants in Suffolk bearing such names as Suert Magno, Stigand Soror, Siuward Rufus, and Leuric Hobbesune (Hobson); and the Domesday record of 1085-1086, which exhibits some curious combinations of Saxon forenames with Norman family names, shows surnames in still more general use.

By the end of the twelfth century hereditary names had become common in England. But even by 1465 they were not universal. During the reign of Edward V a law was passed to compel certain Irish outlaws to adopt surnames: "They shall take unto them a Surname, either of some Town, or some Colour, as Blacke or Brown, or some Art or Science, as Smyth or Carpenter, or some Office, as Cooke or Butler." And as late as the beginning of the nineteenth century a similar decree compelled Jews in Germany and Austria to add a German surname to the single names which they had previously used.

As stated above, family names may be divided into four general classes according to their origin. One of the largest of these classes is that comprising surnames derived from the given name of the father. Such names were formed by means of an added prefix or suffix denoting either "son of" or a diminutive. English names terminating in son, ing, and kin are of this type, as are also the innumerable names prefixed with the Gaelic Mac, the Norman Fitz, the Welsh ap, and the Irish O'. Thus John's sons became Johnsons; William's sons, Williamsons or Wilsons; Richard's sons, Richardsons or Richardses (the final "s" of "Richards" being a contraction of "son"); Neill's sons, MacNeills; Herbert's sons, FitzHerberts; Thomas's sons, ap Thomases (ap has been dropped from many names of which it was formerly a part); and Reilly's sons, O'Reillys.

Another class of surnames, those arising from some bodily or personal characteristic of their first bearer, apparently grew out of what were in the first instance nicknames. Thus Peter the strong became Peter Strong, Roger of small stature became Roger Little or Roger Small, and black-haired William or blond Alfred became William Black or Alfred White. From among the many names of this type, only a few need be mentioned: Long, Short, Hardy, Wise, Good, Gladman, Lover, and Youngman.

A third class of family names, and perhaps the largest of all, is that comprising local surnames--names derived from and originally designating the place of residence of the bearer. Such names were popular in France at an early date and were introduced into England by the Normans, many of whom were known by the titles of their estates. The surnames adopted by the nobility were mainly of this type, being used with the particles de, de la, or del (meaning "of" or "of the"). The Saxon equivalent was the word atte ("at the"), employed in such names as John atte Brook, Edmund atte Lane, Godwin atte Brigg, and William atte Bourne. A vestige of this usage survives in the names Atwell, Atwood, and Atwater; in other cases the Norman de was substituted; and in still others, such as Wood, Briggs, and Lane, the particle was dropped. The surnames of some of the Pilgrim Fathers illustrate place designations: for instance, Winthrop means "from the friendly village"; Endicott, "an end cottage"; Bradford, "at the broad ford"; and Standish, "a

stony park". The suffixes "ford", "ham", "ley", and "ton", denoting locality, are of frequent occurrence in such names as Ashford, Bingham, Burley, and Norton.

While England enjoyed a period of comparative peace under Edward the Confessor, a fourth class of surnames arose--names derived from occupation. The earliest of these seem to have been official names, such as Bishop, Mayor, Fawcett (judge), Alderman, Reeve, Sheriff, Chamberlain, Chancellor, Chaplain, Deacon, Latimer (interpreter, Marshall, Sumner (summoner), and Parker (park-keeper). Trade and craft names, although of the same general type, were of somewhat later origin. Currier was a dresser of skins, Webster a weaver, Wainwright a wagonbuilder, and Baxter a baker. Such names as Smith, Taylor, Barber, Shepherd, Carter, Mason, and Miller are self-explanatory.

Many surnames of today which seem to defy classification or explanation are corruptions of ancient forms which have become disguised almost beyond recognition. Longfellow, for instance, was originally Longueville, Longshanks was Longchamps, Troublefield was Tuberville, Wrinch was Renshaw, Diggles was Douglas, and Snooks was Sevenoaks. Such corruptions of family names, resulting from ignorance of spelling, variations in pronunciation, or merely from the preference of the bearer, tend to baffle both the genealogist and the etymologist. Shakespeare's name is found in some twenty-seven different forms, and the majority of English and Anglo-American surnames have, in their history, appeared in four to a dozen or more variant spellings.

In America a greater variety of family names exists than anywhere else in the world. Surnames of every race and nation are represented. While the greater number are of English, Scotch, Irish, or Welsh origin, brought to this country by scions of families which had borne these names for generations prior to emigration, many others, from central and southern Europe and from the Slavic countries, where the use of surnames is generally a more recently established practice, present considerable difficulty to the student of etymology and family history.

Those Americans who possess old and honored names--who trace the history of their surnames back to sturdy immigrant

ancestors, or even beyond, across the seas, and into the dim mists of antiquity---may be rightfully proud of their heritage. While the name, in its origin, may seem ingenious, humble, surprising, or matter-of-fact, its significance today lies not in a literal interpretation of its original meaning but in the many things that have happened to it since it first came into use. In the beginning it was only a word, a convenient label to distinguish one John from his neighbor John who lived across the field. But soon it established itself as a part of the bearer's individuality; and as it passed to his children, his children's children, and their children, it became the symbol not of one man but of a family and all that that family stood for. Handed down from generation to generation, it grew inseparably associated with the achievement, the tradition, and the prestige of the family. Like the coat of arms---that vivid symbolization of the name which warrior ancestors bore in battle---the name itself, borne through every event of a man's life and through the lives of scores of his progenitors, became the badge of family honor---the "good name" to be proud of, to protect, and to fight for if need be. As the worthy deeds of the marching generations have given it dignity and splendor, it has become an institution, a family rallying cry, and the most treasured possession of those who bear it.

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